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November 21, 2005

TO: Interested Parties

SUBJECT: UPDATE – SEMS/NIMS INTEGRATION – FY 2006 NIMS
REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of this update is to provide you with the most current information and guidance regarding compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and to describe the ongoing efforts to ensure Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)/NIMS integration. This is a follow-up to my August 3, 2005, SEMS/NIMS Integration Update letter. As part of our ongoing technical assistance effort, we will continue to provide you with regular updates as we receive more information from the federal government and as we develop guidance materials for your use. I encourage you to share this information with your stakeholders.

I am pleased to report that in September 2005, the Office of Emergency Services and the Office of Homeland Security jointly transmitted to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the State of California's self-certification letter (enclosure 1). The letter states that California has met the federal fiscal year (FY) 2005 NIMS requirements set forth in the DHS policy letter to Governors dated September 8, 2005. This letter is based upon our collective efforts on SEMS/NIMS integration and will ensure that California receives FY 2006 State Homeland Security Grant Program funds.

The federal government has just released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 NIMS implementation requirements. These requirements constitute those steps that state, territorial, tribal, and local entities must take during FY 2006 (October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006) to become fully compliant with NIMS. Jurisdictions will be required to meet the FY 2006 NIMS implementation requirements as a condition of receiving federal preparedness funding assistance in FY 2007.

Please note that NIMS implementation will not end in FY 2006 as NIMS is a dynamic system which will continue to evolve. The federal government has stated that this may result in additional requirements being issued by the NIMS Integration Center as to what will constitute continuous full NIMS compliance in FY 2007 and beyond. You will find more detail in the enclosed transmittal letter to Governors from DHS and the Summary document (enclosures 2 and 3).

This letter also transmits two key documents that identify the FY 2006 NIMS implementation requirements. The first document identifies the NIMS implementation requirements for the state and territorial levels; the second document identifies the NIMS implementation requirements that must be taken at the tribal and local government levels (enclosures 4 and 5). Please note that the federal government identifies in these documents the NIMS implementation guidance and technical assistance resources that are available and those which are under development.

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As a state we will address the FY 2006 NIMS requirements through the SEMS Maintenance System as set forth in Governor's Executive Order S-2-05. This system provides a forum to address NIMS implementation through its cross-jurisdictional and cross-disciplinary structure of Advisory Board, Technical Group, Specialist Committees, and Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Committees. Five Specialist Committees are currently addressing SEMS/NIMS integration. (Resource Management, Training and Exercises, After Action/Corrective Action, Certifications and Qualifications, and Private Sector, Nongovernmental, Volunteer, and Service Organizations). We will activate three additional Specialist Committees (Tribal Government, Recovery, and Mitigation) and anticipate committee meetings in early 2006. The five currently activated Specialist Committees are progressing with development of state-specific policy guidance and materials. The Advisory Board will meet in January 2006 to act upon the statewide strategy for SEMS/NIMS integration. Foremost among the discussion items in January will be the development of a process the State will follow to self-certify NIMS compliance in FY 2006.

To support your efforts, we have enclosed several state-specific guidance documents that are part of our growing SEMS/NIMS Toolkit. We offer these documents as general guidance to assist in the implementation of your NIMS compliance evaluation process in coordination with our efforts at the state level through the SEMS Maintenance System.

I want to assure you that we recognize that time is of the essence, and will expedite providing you with updated information and materials. If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact any of the staff listed on the SEMS/NIMS contact list (Enclosure 11).

In closing, I want to thank you for your support in carrying out the State's SEMS/NIMS integration efforts, and also to assure you that we are in a position to fully address the FY 2006 requirements. As NIMS implementation continues to evolve, we will evaluate our approach and make changes as needed. To that end your input and participation are vital to our success. I look forward to our continued collaboration on these and future initiatives.

Sincerely,

HENRY R. RENTERIA
Director

Enclosures:

1. Joint OES/OHS self-certification letter to Department of Homeland Security re: FY 2005 NIMS requirements
2. Letter to Governors re: FY 2006 NIMS Requirements
3. Summary of NIMS Implementation Schedule, Requirements, and Certification Process
4. FY 2006 State and Territorial Compliance Activities Matrix
5. FY 2006 Tribal Government and Local Jurisdiction Compliance Activities Matrix
6. SEMS/NIMS Crosswalk
7. NIMS EOP Checklist
8. EOP Checklist for State Emergency Plan
9. Sample Resolution Adopting NIMS
10. Training Guidance Matrix
11. SEMS/NIMS Contacts